United Nations S/2002/317

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2002
English
Original: French

Letter dated 27 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith our response to the letter dated 20 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2002/292), in which Rwanda is referred to by name.

The Kinshasa Government should not attempt to attribute to Council resolution 1399 (2002) of 19 March 2002 what the resolution did not state or what that Government would have liked it to state. In its above-mentioned resolution, the Security Council never said that Rwandan troops were at Muliro and Pweto. The Kinshasa Government cannot therefore call in its letter (S/2002/292) for the withdrawal of our troops from a place where they are simply not present.

On the other hand, the Kinshasa Government should resume the political negotiations in the context of the inter-Congolese dialogue with commitment and without further pretexts. It must accept the fact that the inter-Congolese dialogue is quite different from the unfortunate circumstances that brought Joseph Kabila to power, quite by chance and unexpectedly. The inter-Congolese dialogue is quite different. It is something that is being created and built and the natural inability of Joseph Kabila to assert himself in the talks is not the fault of the Rwandans. That is a matter for the Congolese. The Kinshasa Government must therefore refrain from continually using Rwanda as a pretext to abandon the inter-Congolese political negotiations which this same Government periodically sabotages (Addis Ababa and "Sun City 1").

We welcome the return of the Kinshasa Government to the inter-Congolese political negotiations and dare to hope that no other pretext will be used to create a "Sun City 2".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-30759 (E) 270302 270302